



**FAMA/FEMSA**  
**Governmental Affairs Committee**  
[famafemsagac.org](http://famafemsagac.org)

The fire service is America's first responders—the nation's first line of defense in the event of a fire, natural disaster, medical emergency, terrorist attack, or other emergency.

Here, FAMA and FEMSA, associations representing the companies and manufacturers that help first responders save lives, present 10 vital facts to know about America's fire service.



**Fire Apparatus**  
**Manufacturers' Association**

[fama.org](http://fama.org) | [info@fama.org](mailto:info@fama.org)

The Fire Apparatus Manufacturers' Association (FAMA) is the association of choice most committed to enhancing the quality of the emergency service community through the manufacture and sale of safe, efficient emergency response vehicles and equipment.



**Fire and Emergency Manufacturers**  
**and Services Association**

[femsa.org](http://femsa.org) | [info@femsa.org](mailto:info@femsa.org)

As the leading trade association for the fire and emergency services industry, the Fire and Emergency Manufacturers and Services Association (FEMSA) represents over 150 companies that provide products and services to millions of fire and EMS professionals throughout the world. As the federal government institutes executive directives and legislative initiatives to better equip emergency service professionals, FEMSA is there.

#### Sources

1–4: NFPA: Fire Loss in the United States During 2014  
[www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)  
 5–7, 9: NFPA: U.S. Fire Department Profile for 2014  
[www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org); National Volunteer Fire Council: 2015 Volunteer Fire Service Fact Sheet  
 8–10: NFPA: Third Needs Assessment of the U.S. Fire Service  
<http://www.nfpa.org>  
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# 10 key facts

about the fire  
service & industry

America's first responders and the industry that helps them save lives



## Fire & All-Hazards First Response

- 1 Fire departments responded to over **31.64 million calls** in 2014, up from 31.6 million in 2013.
- 2 In 2014 there were **1.29 million fires** in the U.S., up from 1.24 million in 2013. These fires caused 3,275 civilian deaths and 15,775 civilian injuries.
- 3 In 2014 the U.S. suffered **\$11.6 billion** worth of property loss from fire, up from \$11.5 billion in 2013.
- 4 In 2014 **64%** of the 31.64 million emergency calls nationwide were for EMS and medical aid.

## Personnel & Capabilities

- 5 In 2014 there were approximately **1,134,400 firefighters** in the U.S. Of the total number of firefighters, 346,150 (31%) were career firefighters and 788,250 (69%) were volunteer firefighters. Services contributed by volunteer firefighters save localities across the country an estimated \$139.8 billion per year.
- 6 In 2014 most **career firefighters (70%)** were in communities that protected 25,000 or more people. Most volunteer firefighters (95%) were in departments that protected fewer than 25,000 people.
- 7 In 2014, 13,665 (45.6%) departments provided **EMS service**, 4,635 departments (15.5%) provided EMS service and advance life support, and 11,680 (39%) of departments provided no EMS support.

## Apparatus, PPE, & Communications

- 8 **Three out of five (63%)** departments have at least one piece of personal protective clothing that is 10 years old, down from 74% in 2001 and up from 59% in 2005.
- 9 In 2014 the U.S. had **70,550** pumpers **7,200** aerial apparatus **81,000** other suppression vehicles **58,150** stations **Nearly half (46%)** of all fire engines and pumpers are at least 15 years old, down from 51% in 2001 and 50% in 2005. There are also roughly 9,000 engines in the U.S. that are at least 30 years old.
- 10 **51% of all fire departments** do not have enough portable radios to equip all emergency responders on a shift. This is down from 77% in 2001 and 65% in 2005.

\*Fact 8, the second paragraph of 9, and fact 10 will be updated late 2016 pending the release of NFPA's Fourth Needs Assessment of the U.S. Fire Service publication.